

ADDITIONAL LAND OFFICE IN MONTANA.

MARCH 20, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. ELLIS, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1743.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, having had under consideration the bill (S. 1743) to establish an additional land office in the State of Montana, find that the proposed land district embraces about 5,500,000 acres of land in the northwest corner of the State of Montana, 1,000,000 acres of which have been surveyed.

A large portion of the land embraced within the limits of the proposed land district is being rapidly settled, and settlers, in order to reach the nearest land office, must, if they travel by rail, go a distance of more than 400 miles to Missoula. The same office can be reached by wagon road after traveling a distance of near 150 miles from the proposed office at Kalispell, and that over a route impassable a portion of the year.

The Committee on the Public Lands are of the opinion that the bill should pass.

The bill as now submitted is in conformity with the recommendation of the Department, as shown by the letters of the Honorable Commissioner of the General Land Office and the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, which are hereto appended and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 17, 1896.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC LANDS,
House of Representatives.

SIR: In compliance with your request of the 13th instant for suggestions on Senate bill 1743, to establish an additional land office in the State of Montana (at Kalispell), I inclose herewith a copy of a letter on the subject by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, in which he states that "the bill now submitted conforms to the suggestions made by this office, and there is no objection to its enactment."

I concur in the Commissioner's report.

Very respectfully,

HOKE SMITH, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., March 16, 1896.

SIR: I have received, by your reference for report, a communication from Hon. J. F. Lacey, chairman House Committee on the Public Lands, dated the 13th instant,

inclosing a copy of bill (S. 1743) to establish an additional land office in the State of Montana, passed by the Senate March 5, 1896, upon which any suggestions which this office may deem proper are requested by the committee.

In reply, I have the honor to state that a bill for the purpose indicated was submitted to this office on January 30, 1895, from the Senate Committee on Public Lands, but as the description of the boundaries of the proposed district was mostly on imaginary lines, this office suggested that it be amended to conform to the lines of established surveys, and that if this were done it was believed that the new district would serve a great convenience to the public, and would meet the approval of this office.

It appears that the bill now submitted conforms to the suggestions made by this office, and there is no objection to its enactment.

Very respectfully,

S. W. LAMOREUX, *Commissioner.*

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.